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Appl. No. 10/017,852
Amendment Dated May 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 6, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to provide an audio bridge, comprising:
receiving a request at a gatekeeper to create an audio bridge session over a packet network between a plurality of call terminals from one of said plurality of call terminals;
providing a bridge table at said gatekeeper, said bridge table having an access number for one of said plurality of call terminals and information indicating whether said access number is also a bridge number;
determining whether ~~an~~ said access number associated with said one of said plurality of call terminals is ~~a~~ also said bridge number; and
creating said audio bridge session between said plurality of call terminals in accordance with said determination.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said access number is a telephone number.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating comprises:
receiving a plurality of call requests with said access number;
determining whether said access number is a bridge number using a bridge table;

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establishing a call connection for each call request if said access number is said bridge number; and
combining each call connection to form said audio bridge session.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said combining comprises:
 - receiving a stream of packets representing audio information over each call connection;
 - directing each stream of packets to an intermediate device; and
 - mixing said streams of packets.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said packet network operates in accordance with a Transport Control Protocol (TCP), Internet Protocol (IP) and H.323 Specification.

6. (Previously Presented) A method to form an audio bridge over a packet network, comprising:
 - receiving a call request to form a first call connection between a first call terminal and a second call terminal using an access number for said second call terminal;
 - establishing said first call connection;
 - receiving a call request to form a second call connection between a third call terminal and said second call terminal;
 - determining whether said access number is a bridge number;
 - creating an audio bridge session in accordance with said determination; and

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designating an access number associated with at least one of said first, second, and third call terminals participating in said audio bridge session as said bridge number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said determining comprises:
searching a bridge table for said access number; and
determining whether said access number is identified as a bridge number using information stored in said bridge table.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said creating comprises:
receiving a first stream of packets over said first call connection;
transferring said first stream of packets to a multi-point control unit;
establishing said second call connection;
receiving a second stream of packets over said second call connection;
transferring said second stream of packets to said multi-point control unit; and
mixing said first stream of packets and said second stream of packets.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said streams of packets represent audio information.
10. (Previously Presented) An audio bridge system, comprising:
a gateway to convert audio information to packets;

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a gatekeeper connected to said gateway, said gatekeeper having a bridge table, said bridge table having an access number for a call terminal and information indicating whether said access number is also a bridge number; and

a multi-point control unit (MCU) connected to said gatekeeper and said gateway to form an audio bridge session using said access number and packets received from said gateway, said gatekeeper to use said access number of said call terminal as a bridge number designated by said call terminal participating in said audio bridge session.

11. (Original) The audio bridge system of claim 10, wherein said packets are formed in accordance with the Transport Control Protocol (TCP), Internet Protocol (IP) and H.323 protocol.

12. (Original) The audio bridge system of claim 10, further comprising an internal gateway connected to said MCU to convert said packets to audio information.

13. (Original) The audio bridge system of claim 10, wherein said gatekeeper further comprises a user interface to modify said bridge table.

14. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:
a storage medium;
said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in providing an audio bridge by receiving a request to create an audio bridge session over a packet network between a plurality of call terminals from one of

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said plurality of call terminals, providing a bridge table having an access number for one of said plurality of call terminals and information indicating whether said access number is also a bridge number, determining whether an said access number associated with said one of said plurality of call terminals is a also said bridge number, and creating said audio bridge session between said plurality of call terminals in accordance with said determination.

15. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said creating by receiving a plurality of call requests with said access number, determining whether said access number is a bridge number using a bridge table, establishing a call connection for each call request if said access number is said bridge number, and combining each call connection to form said audio bridge session.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said combining by receiving a stream of packets representing audio information over each call connection, directing each stream of packets to an intermediate device, and mixing said streams of packets.

17. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a storage medium;
said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in forming an audio bridge over a packet network by receiving a call request to

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form a first call connection between a first call terminal and a second call terminal using an access number for said second call terminal, establishing said first call connection, receiving a call request to form a second call connection between a third call terminal and said second call terminal, determining whether said access number is a bridge number, and creating an audio bridge session in accordance with said determination, and designating an access number associated with at least one of said first, second, and third call terminals participating in said audio bridge session as said bridge number.

18. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said determining by searching a bridge table for said access number, and determining whether said access number is identified as a bridge number using information stored in said bridge table.

19. (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said creating by receiving a first stream of packets over said first call connection, transferring said first stream of packets to a multi-point control unit, establishing said second call connection, receiving a second stream of packets over said second call connection, transferring said second stream of packets to said multi-point control unit, and mixing said first stream of packets and said second stream of packets.